

Developmental Disabilities Council
Reading Cover Page

Date: November 17, 2005

Meeting: Governance Committee

Reading Number: 05-G-07

Issue: Early Intervention Services in
Natural Environments

Included in this reading:

Draft Policy 113: revised

Background/Summary:

As decided at the last meeting, Lou Colwell redrafted Policy 113: Early Intervention Services in Natural Environments. The main goal of the revisions is to assure consistency with the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act

of 2000 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Action: Discussion

If you need additional information please contact Lou Colwell or Ed Holen.



Policy No. 113

Early Intervention Services in Natural Environments

Adopted: November ???, 2005

The Developmental Disabilities Council supports the provision of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities in natural environments as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Education Act (IDEIA) of 2004, Part C. This support is consistent with the Council's federal mandate to work toward the integration and inclusion of children and adults with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life. The Council recognizes that the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP), Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), Department of Social and Health

Services (DSHS) is the lead agency responsible for the implementation of IDEIA 2004, Part C in Washington State. The Council strives to assist families of infants and toddlers with disabilities to think of themselves and their children as valued members of their communities.

The definition of early intervention services in IDEIA Part C, "...means developmental services that...to the maximum extent appropriate, are provided in natural environments, including the home, and community setting in which children without disabilities participate, and are provided in conformity with an individualized family service plan..."

Best practice in providing early intervention services in natural environments includes (a) where the services are provided, and (b) how the services are provided. IDEIA requires that appropriate early intervention services are based on scientifically based research. Early intervention services are part of the routines and daily activities of

infants and toddlers and their families, such as, bath time, reading, mealtime, or playing, i.e. natural environments.

The Council urges the legislature, Governor and state agencies to reaffirm the basic civil rights of all, including those with disabilities, and enforce IDEIA, Part C. In addition, ITEIP, other DSHS divisions and state agencies as well as local service providers are strongly encouraged to ensure early intervention services are integrated within the home and community of infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The Council invites childcare and other community programs to welcome infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

The Council recognizes and applauds early intervention programs that are providing services in natural environments. The Council will continue to work with state

agencies and other organizations to increase the knowledge, skills, and support for early intervention service providers to better prepare them to provide inclusive programs.

Sources:

The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, PL 106-402
Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Education Act, 2004, Part C

Ed Holen, Executive Director
1-800-634-4473 or (360) 586-3560
edh@cted.wa.gov